

*“Will I ever use this stuff when I graduate?”*

*“Why should I take this class?”*

*“Why should I stay in school?”*

*As an educator, you probably hear  
questions like these.*

*Many of your students can't see  
what's ahead for them. If they don't see  
how school can help them live a good life,  
they are more likely to tune out in class.  
They may even drop out.*

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### **School-to-Work Transition Provides the Connection**

School-to-Work Transition is an education strategy that can help you and your students. It links what you teach in class more closely with your students' current interests and future career opportunities. Through site visits, job shadows, work experiences, and class projects, your students receive a firsthand look at what life after school or college might look like. They will experience the connection between learning and earning and between the school house and the workplace.

School-to-Work Transition makes school more relevant for your students and emphasizes learning by doing. It also can help you keep up-to-date on changing careers and how what you teach relates to the working world.

### **For More Information**

Contact your School District Office  
or your local Education Service District

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# **School-to-Work Transition and Educators**



## School-to-Work Transition Motivates Students to learn

Students say School-to-Work Transition experiences encourage them to pay more attention in class.

- ☛ Students preparing for college will focus on their studies when they see how their academic courses apply to careers that interest them.
- ☛ Students preparing for full-time work learn the skills and work habits they will need to get started in a successful career.
- ☛ Students combining academics with career preparation see the connection between the two.

School-to-Work Transition will raise your students' expectations by exposing them to new opportunities. With career goals in mind, they will focus more on academics and will be better prepared to meet the state's new higher academic standards. Students are more likely to stay in school when they see hope for their future. And, you have a better opportunity to help them become successful in the careers they want.

## Washington State's Vision

Washington State has set its sights on providing a rigorous, top-quality education for students. To get there, new laws were passed to raise academic standards and to measure how much your students know and can do. The new laws establish four clear goals for student achievement. These goals call for your students to:

**Goal 1:** Read with comprehension, write with skill, and communicate effectively and responsibly in a variety of ways and settings;

**Goal 2:** Know and apply the core concepts and principles of mathematics; social, physical, and life sciences; civics and history; geography; arts, and health and fitness;

**Goal 3:** Think analytically, logically, and creatively, and integrate experience and knowledge to form reasoned judgments and solve problems;

**Goal 4:** Understand the importance of work and how performance, effort, and decisions directly affect career and educational opportunities.

To inspire young people to reach for higher academic standards, school districts are preparing School-to-Work Transition experiences.

Students in elementary and middle school will be exposed to careers through field trips and classroom presentations. In early high school, teens will explore careers that interest them through research and field trips to work sites.

As juniors and seniors, students will be encouraged to hold at least one internship or part-time job in their area of interest. The experience should be closely linked to activities in the classroom.

## Employers and Workers Want to Help

Employers and labor organizations in your community are ready to help you prepare young people for their future. Some will help you design School-to-Work Transition experiences for your classroom. Others will open their work places for field trips or invite students to hold internships. Still others will offer you an internship or paid summer job to help you understand how what you teach applies to the real world.

## What Can You Do?

There are many ways you can get involved in School-to-Work Transition. Here are some ideas:

- ☛ Assess what and how you are teaching. Build “real world” connections into your assignments to students. Help students learn how to think analytically and creatively, work in teams to solve problems, and teach others.
- ☛ Invite speakers (including parents) to your class to talk about their jobs, their career preparation, and their values about learning.
- ☛ Sign up for a summer internship program or visit a local employer, so you can learn about what students need to know to work in the business at a variety of levels.
- ☛ Encourage students to explore careers, and help them get into internships, career fairs, summer work experiences, or apprenticeships.
- ☛ Tell your peers about how you are teaching differently, and how you are making the link to careers. Share the benefit of this approach in and out of the classroom.
- ☛ Make certain that your school includes School-to-Work Transition in its school improvement plan. Be an advocate for School-to-Work Transition in your school and district.